

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 65

Designating March 3, 2017, as “National Speech and Debate Education Day”.

---

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 17 (legislative day, FEBRUARY 16), 2017

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

---

## RESOLUTION

Designating March 3, 2017, as “National Speech and Debate Education Day”.

Whereas it is essential for youth to learn and practice the art of communicating with and without technology;

Whereas speech and debate education offers students myriad forms of public speaking through which students may develop talent and exercise unique voice and character;

Whereas speech and debate education gives students the 21st-century skills of communication, critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration;

Whereas critical analysis and effective communication allow important ideas, texts, and philosophies the opportunity to flourish;

Whereas personal, professional, and civic interactions are enhanced by the ability of the participants in those interactions to listen, concur, question, and dissent with reason and compassion;

Whereas students who participate in speech and debate have chosen a challenging activity that requires regular practice, dedication, and hard work;

Whereas teachers and coaches of speech and debate devote in-school, afterschool, and weekend hours to equip students with life-changing skills and opportunities;

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day emphasizes the lifelong impact of providing people of the United States with the confidence and preparation to both discern and share views;

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day acknowledges that most achievements, celebrations, commemorations, and pivotal moments in modern history begin, end, or are crystallized with public address;

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day recognizes that learning to research, construct, and present an argument is integral to personal advocacy, social movements, and the making of public policy;

Whereas the National Speech & Debate Association, in conjunction with national and local partners, honors and celebrates the importance of speech and debate through National Speech and Debate Education Day; and

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day emphasizes the importance of speech and debate education and the integration of speech and debate education across grade levels and disciplines: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1           (1) designates March 3, 2017, as “National  
2           Speech and Debate Education Day”;

3           (2) strongly affirms the purposes of National  
4           Speech and Debate Education Day; and

5           (3) encourages educational institutions, busi-  
6           nesses, community and civic associations, and all  
7           people of the United States to celebrate and promote  
8           National Speech and Debate Education Day.

○